

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus, comprising:
a hierarchizing section for hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information includes broadcasting schedule information and broadcasting station information of the program, while the second information includes title information of the program and designating information representing position information of predetermined information in the first information to generate introductory information of the program, and

wherein the first information, which can be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with said program, and the second information, which cannot be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with said program;

a first providing section for providing at least one of the first information and the second information; and

a second providing section for providing layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen,

wherein an updated electronic program guide is displayed by combining the first information received from a first delivery medium and the second information received from a second delivery medium,

wherein when the first information of a predetermined program is changed, only the first information of the predetermined program is retransmitted from the first medium for updating the electronic program guide,

wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information, and

wherein said electronic program guide information is displayed according to a delivery medium on which said data or at least one of said first information and said second information is provided.

2. (Previously Presented) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first providing section provides the first information or the second information by radio or wire communication or by a recording medium, and said second providing section provides the layout information by radio or wire communication or by a recording medium.

3. (Previously Presented) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first providing section provides the first information by radio or wire communication when a broadcasting time of a program is changed.

4. (Previously Presented) An information providing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said first providing section provides the first information in a superposed relationship with a vertical blanking period of a television signal.

5. (Previously Presented) An information providing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said first providing section provides the first information digitally in a superposed relationship with a television signal.

6. (Previously Presented) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first providing section and said second providing section provide the first information and the second information as well as the layout information digitally by radio or wire communication.

7. (Previously Presented) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said hierarchizing section determines that information of the electronic program guide information which is changed between regular broadcasting and rebroadcasting as the first information and determines that information of the electronic program guide information which is not changed as the second information.

8. (Previously Presented) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the first information comprises that information of the electronic program guide information which may change between key station broadcasting and local station broadcasting and the second information comprises that information of the electronic program guide information which is not changed.

9. (Previously Presented) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said hierarchizing section hierarchizes the second information further into third information which is small in amount and is referred to by the third information and fourth information which is large in amount and is referred to by the first information or the third information.

10. (Original) An information providing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the first information is information in units of a program to be broadcast and the third information of the second information includes information for identifying a performer who constructs the program while the fourth information of the second information includes information regarding details of a performer who performs in the program.

11. (Currently Amended) An information providing method utilized by an information providing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information, which can be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with said program , and the second information, which cannot be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with said program;

providing at least one of the first information and the second information;

providing layout information from which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen,

combining the first information received from a first delivery medium and the second information received from a second delivery medium to display an updated electronic program guide,

wherein the first information includes broadcasting schedule information and broadcasting station information of the program, while the second information includes title information of the program and designating information representing position information of predetermined information in the first information to generate introductory information of the program, and

wherein when the first information of a predetermined program is changed, only the first information of the predetermined program is retransmitted from the first medium for updating the electronic program guide,

wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information; and

displaying said electronic program guide information according to a delivery medium on which said data or at least one of said first information and said second information is provided.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer readable medium, the program being operable to perform the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information includes broadcasting schedule information and broadcasting station information of the program, while the second information includes title information of the program and designating information representing position information of the predetermined information in the first information to generate introductory information of the program, and

wherein the first information, which can be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with said program, and the second information, which

cannot be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with said program;

providing at least one of the first information and the second information;

providing layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen,

combining the first information received from a first delivery medium and the second information received from a second delivery medium to display an updated electronic program guide,

wherein when the first information of a predetermined program is changed, only the first information of the predetermined program is retransmitted from the first medium for updating the electronic program guide,

wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information; and

displaying said electronic program guide information according to a delivery medium on which said data or at least one of said first information and said second information is provided.

13. (Currently Amended) A display controlling apparatus, comprising:
a first acquiring section for acquiring at least one of first and second information, the first information designating predetermined information of electronic program guide information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information being referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information includes broadcasting schedule information and broadcasting station information of the program, while the second information includes title information of the program and designating information representing position information of predetermined information in the first information to generate introductory information of the program, and

wherein the first information, which can be changed, comprises electronic program guide information, associated with said program , and the second information, which cannot be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with said program;

a second acquiring section for acquiring layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen;

a producing section for producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information,

wherein an updated electronic program guide is displayed by combining the first information received from a first delivery medium and the second information received from a second delivery medium,

wherein when the first information of a predetermined program is changed, only the first information of the predetermined program is retransmitted from the first medium for updating the electronic program guide,

wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information, and

wherein said electronic program guide information is displayed according to a delivery medium on which said data or at least one of said first information and said second information is provided.

14. (Previously Presented) A display controlling apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising a display section for displaying the electronic program guide information.

15. (Previously Presented) A display controlling apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said producing section retrieves information from the first information or the second information in response to the layout information and produces the display information in response to the retrieved information and the layout information.

16. (Previously Presented) A display controlling apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said producing section hierarchizes the retrieved information into first intermediate information which relates to contents to be displayed at individual layout positions based on the layout information and into second intermediate information to be referred to by the first intermediate information and designates the first information.

17. (Previously Presented) A display controlling apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said producing section sorts the first information to be designated as the second intermediate information.

18. (Previously Presented) A display controlling apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising an instructing section for instructing sorting of the first information to be designated as the second intermediate information.

19. (Previously Presented) A display controlling apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said first or second acquiring section acquires at least one of the first information, the second information and the layout information from a recording medium.

20. (Previously Presented) A display controlling apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said first or second acquiring section fetches at least one of the first information, the second information and the layout information from data transmitted thereto by radio or wire communication.

21. (Currently Amended) A display controlling method utilized by a display controlling apparatus, comprising the steps of:

acquiring at least one of first information and second information, first information designating predetermined information of electronic program guide information on specific broadcasts of a program and the second information being referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information includes broadcasting schedule information and broadcasting station information of the program, while the second information includes title information of the program and designating information representing position information of

predetermined information in the first information to generate introductory information of the program, and

wherein the first information, which can be changed, comprises electronic program guide information, associated with said program, and the second information, which cannot be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with said program;

acquiring layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen;

producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information,

combining the first information received from a first delivery medium and the second information received from a second delivery medium to display an updated electronic program guide,

wherein when the first information of a predetermined program is changed, only the first information of the predetermined program is retransmitted from the first medium for updating the electronic program guide,

wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information; and

displaying said electronic program guide information according to a delivery medium on which said data or at least one of said first information and said second information is provided.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer readable medium, the program being operable to perform the steps of:

acquiring at least one of first information and second information, the first information designating predetermined information of electronic program guide information on specific broadcasts of a program and the second information being referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information includes broadcasting schedule information and broadcasting station information of the program, while the second information includes title information of the program and designating information representing position information of predetermined information in the first information to generate introductory information of the program, and

wherein the first information, which can be changed, comprises electronic program guide information, associated with said program, and the second information, which cannot be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with said program;

acquiring layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen;

producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information,

combining the first information received from a first delivery medium and the second information received from a second delivery medium to display an updated electronic program guide,

wherein when the first information of a predetermined program is changed, only the first information of the predetermined program is retransmitted from the first medium for updating the electronic program guide,

wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information; and

displaying said electronic program guide information according to a delivery medium on which said data or at least one of said first information and said second information is provided.

23. (Currently Amended) An information providing system, comprising:
a hierarchizing section for hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information includes broadcasting schedule information and broadcasting station information of the program, while the second information includes title information of the program and designating information representing position information of predetermined information in the first information to generate introductory information of the program, and

wherein the first information, which can be changed, comprises electronic program guide information, associated with said program, and the second information, which cannot be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with said program;

a first providing section for providing at least one of the first information and the second information;

a second providing section for providing layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen;

a first acquiring section for acquiring at least one of the first information and the second information;

a second acquiring section for acquiring layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen; and

a producing section for producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information,

wherein an updated electronic program guide is displayed by combining the first information received from a first delivery medium and the second information received from a second delivery medium to display an updated electronic program guide,

wherein when the first information of a predetermined program is changed, only the first information of the predetermined program is retransmitted from the first medium for updating the electronic program guide,

wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information, and

wherein said electronic program guide information is displayed according to a delivery medium on which said data or at least one of said first information and said second information is provided.

24. (Currently Amended) An information providing method utilized by an information providing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information includes broadcasting schedule information and broadcasting station information of the program, while the second information includes title information of the program and designating information representing position information of predetermined information in the first information to generate introductory information of the program, and

wherein the first information, which can be changed, comprises electronic program guide information, associated with said program, and the second information, which cannot be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with said program;

providing at least one of the first information and the second information;

providing layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen;

acquiring at least one of the first information and the second information;

acquiring layout information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is displayed on a screen;

combining the first information received from a first delivery medium and the second information received from a second delivery medium to display an updated electronic program guide;

producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information,

wherein when the first information of a predetermined program is changed, only the first information of the predetermined program is retransmitted from the first medium for updating the electronic program guide,

wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information; and

displaying said electronic program guide information according to a delivery medium on which said data or at least one of said first information and said second information is provided.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer readable medium, the program being operable to perform the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information includes broadcasting schedule information and broadcasting station information of the program, while the second information includes title information of the program and designating information representing position information of predetermined information in the first information to generate introductory information of the program, and

wherein the first information, which can be changed, comprises electronic program guide information, associated with said program, and the second information, which cannot be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with said program;

providing at least one of the first information and the second information;

providing layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen;

acquiring at least one of the first information and the second information;

acquiring layout information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is displayed on a screen;

combining the first information received from a first delivery medium and the second information received from a second delivery medium to display an updated electronic program guide;

producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information,

wherein when the first information of a predetermined program is changed, only the first information of the predetermined program is retransmitted from the first medium for updating the electronic program guide,

wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information; and

displaying said electronic program guide information according to a delivery medium on which said data or at least one of said first information and said second information is provided.